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BOOK DEPARTMENT.

NOTES

IN *Paysans et ouvriers depuis sept cents ans** Vicomte G. d'Avenel continues his ambitious plan of making a social survey of the seven centuries since the year 1200. In 1895 he published *La fortune prisée à travers sept siècles*; and the preface of the present work announces that the series will be completed by a third volume treating of the middle and wealthy classes during the same period. These studies are all based on the author's detailed and elaborate *Histoire économique de la propriété, des salaires, des denrées, et de tous les prix en général depuis l'an 1200 jusqu'à l'an 1800*, published in four large quarto volumes. The purpose of the present series is to present in a more popular way, and in handy volumes, the results of the larger work. This they do in a very interesting way. While the larger volumes consist almost wholly of quotations of prices and wages, the present work contains the critical analysis and comments by the author on the material he has collected, and a comparison of period with period.

According to the author the period of greatest prosperity for the workingman was during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, when his condition was distinctly superior to that under which he now lives. Beginning with the fifteenth century, however, his condition became almost steadily worse until the end of the last century. During the last hundred years, owing to the enormous increase in the productive capacity of the people due to scientific progress, there has been a return to something like the former prosperous conditions.

IN THE VOLUME entitled "Modern Political Institutions,"† Judge Baldwin has collected a number of essays and occasional addresses dealing with questions in American public and private law. Although the book is divided into chapters, there is little internal unity, the subjects being dictated by the interest of passing events rather than by any fixed plan. Probably the most interesting of the essays dealing with questions of public law is that on "Absolute Power, An American Institution."

In this chapter the author develops the idea that the President of the United States represents the principle of political absolutism in

* Paris: Armand Colin et Cie, 1899, pp. xvi, 391.

† Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1898. Pp. 387. Price, \$2.00

much the same way as the Czar of Russia, the only important difference being that the authority of the President is controlled by the reserve power of popular will, expressed at the polls. The first step in the development of this form of political absolutism was the recognition by Congress of the power of the President to dismiss his immediate subordinates. This was followed by the extension of executive authority in the exercise of the military power which reached its climax during the Civil War. The strengthening of executive authority was well expressed by Lincoln in 1864 when he wrote "that measures otherwise unconstitutional, might become lawful, by becoming indispensable to the preservation of the nation." It is evident that executive power thus interpreted is without limits, a possibility which became a reality during the Reconstruction period, when the President dealt with the rebellious states as if they were provinces under his immediate control.

A third instance in which the powers of the President have been greatly extended is to be found in the conduct of the foreign relations of the United States. As Judge Baldwin well says, "if he (the President) cannot declare war he can create one." His power of receiving ministers involves the power to recognize the sovereignty and independence of other states and the exercise of this power involves, in many cases, the maintenance of peaceful relations with other countries.

The final step in the development of despotic power, in the view of Judge Baldwin, has been the passage of the thirteenth and fourteenth amendments, the effect of which was to extend the protection of the national government to the individual as against the hostile action of the states. Curiously enough, the author regards this as the development of a form of collectivism and a departure from the Anglo-Saxon traditions of individualism. It is probable that very few students of our constitutional history will agree with Judge Baldwin in this estimate of the amendments passed as a result of the slavery conflict. It is true that their effect has been to increase the power of the central government but it has been an increase of power designed to protect individual rights rather than to add to the positive functions of government. The last three amendments to the constitution are as clear an expression of the desire to protect civil and political rights as the first ten.

With the exception of this estimate of our constitutional changes the author's statement of the powers of the executive is clear and convincing. He would probably have added to the definiteness of his conclusions if the powers of the executive, as such, had been clearly separated from that of the other branches of the central government.

At times the reader is not quite certain whether the author is speaking of the President or of the executive, legislative and judiciary combined.

Of the other essays in the book the most interesting are the chapters on "The First Century's Changes in Our State Constitutions," and "The Decadence of the Legal Fiction."

A COLONIAL HANDBOOK FOR AMERICANS is a pressing if not exactly a "long-felt" want.* Mr. Copeland has supplied the needs of the moment by an interesting and well-arranged compilation of facts concerning Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines, Hawaii and Guam. For each group of islands a brief historical sketch is given, followed by a synopsis of important facts. The synopsis is arranged in the form of a catechism, with answers, and covers a wide field of interesting and important information. The sources of this information are given wherever practicable. The handbook promises to dispel some of our dense ignorance of certain important facts and thereby to facilitate a solution of the fundamental question now confronting us.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN† is still the subject of numerous biographies; the characteristic feature of the latest work of this kind is implied in its title, "The True Benjamin Franklin." It is an attempt at impartiality. Biographers are doing much at present to correct the popular tendency toward hero-worship. Many if not most of the early biographies have served to throw over their characters a halo of unreal light. Especially is this true of Franklin. Mr. Fisher has endeavored to correct these mistakes in former works rather than to bring out new material; the work therefore differs from others on the same subject in the points on which emphasis is placed. It might well have been called the "Human Benjamin Franklin."

THE STATESMAN'S YEAR BOOK for 1899‡ is a tangible and useful embodiment of the new Anglo-American understanding. A special edition has been prepared, under the editorship of Carroll D. Wright, for the use of American readers, in which the domestic and colonial affairs of the United States are allotted a total of 282 pages. This

* *The American Colonial Handbook.* By THOMAS C. COPELAND. Pp. 180. Price, 50 cents. New York: Funk and Wagnalls Company, 1899.

† *The True Benjamin Franklin.* By SIDNEY G. FISHER. Pp. 369. Price, \$1.50. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1899.

‡ *The Statesman's Year Book.* Statistical and Historical Annual of the States of the World for the Year 1899. Edited by J. SCOTT KELTIE and I. P. A. RENWICK. American Edition. Edited by CARROLL D. WRIGHT. Pp. 1282. Price, \$3. New York: Macmillan Company.

American portion of the book is a compact, orderly and well-indexed presentation of the leading facts concerning the government, finances, industries and foreign trade of the United States and its island possessions. Some 1200 pages are given to the rest of the globe, the British Empire absorbing 333. The annual contains new maps of Africa and China and several useful additions to the statistical tables. It would be interesting to know whether this invaluable American edition, so practically illustrating the community of Anglo-American interests, has met with any demand in the United Kingdom.

DR. GUSTAVE LE BON has recently published a study of the Psychology of Socialism.* Those who are familiar with the author's brilliancy as a writer and his dangerously brilliant powers of generalization will readily see that this subject is one which lends itself exceptionally well to Dr. Le Bon's peculiar gifts. He outlines the socialistic program in different countries and discusses the mental states of their advocates. He regards socialism as a faith and so discusses it in a very suggestive manner in its relation to the several racial elements where we find it making the greatest progress. Although the author's sweeping synthesis will not always stand close logical inspection, in most cases he does see the underlying economic factors of various aspects of the social movements of our times with all the greater clearness because he is oblivious to the details of the picture. An example of this is seen in his discussion of the conflict between the economic necessities of our civilization and its democratic ideals.

It is also interesting to note that the Macmillan Company has published another English translation of one of Dr. Le Bon's works. The volume entitled "The Crowd" met with a favorable reception, and now one of the same author's earlier works: "The Psychology of Peoples," has appeared in English.† It is a brilliant essay somewhat along the lines of Brook Adams' "Law of Civilization and Decay." The theme of the book is the modifications in the soul-life of individuals and nations produced by differences in their environments.

THE INCREASING complexity of the literature on labor makes Miss Helen Marot's "*Handbook of Labor Literature*"‡ a positive boon

* *Psychologie du socialisme*. Par GUSTAVE LE BON. 8 vo, pp. vii, 96. Price, 7fr. 50. Paris: Felix Alcan, 1898.

† Pp. 236. Price, \$1.50. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1898.

‡ Being a Classified and Annotated List of the more important Books and Pamphlets in the English Language. Pp. vii, 96. Price, \$1.00. Philadelphia: The Free Library of Economics and Political Science, 1315 Filbert Street, 1899.

to readers interested in economics. The author combines the trained ability of a librarian with the special knowledge of a student of the labor problem, and in her bibliography we have a work which will take rank beside the best bibliographies on German and French literature in the same field. Nothing comparable with it has preceded it in English, and it is a matter for special congratulation that this first essay at a comprehensive labor bibliography should be of such high merit. The titles, which number nearly one thousand, are arranged topically under some twenty-five heads, such as "Industrial History," "Monopolies," "Socialism," "Utopias," "Hours of Labor," "Unemployed," etc. Some of these are sub-divided, so that the reader may turn readily to the literature on any special topic. At the end of the book is an index of authors which enables the reader to ascertain as easily what any particular writer has contributed to labor literature. Special features of the work which will prove of great value are lists of labor periodicals, sociological journals, and the publications of the labor bureaus in this country and abroad. The names and addresses of all of the publishers referred to are also given and these, supplemented with the prices quoted in connection with most of the titles, make the bibliography as useful as a number of publishers' catalogues bound up together. Only one mistake has been noted and that evidently typographical; 1897-98 are the years given on page 8 for the Reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission instead of 1886-98.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SPANISH RULE IN AMERICA* is a description of the various colonial ventures of Spain in the western hemisphere. The initial stages of Spanish colonization are described with some detail, the principal emphasis being placed upon the role of the government. In all the Spanish colonies the action of the government was naturally the determining factor and Professor Moses has therefore given a lengthy description of the organization and practical working of Spanish colonial administration. The concluding chapter gives an excellent discussion of the general characteristics of Spanish as compared with English colonization.

THE WORK of Professor Takahashi on "International Law During the Chino-Japanese War"† is of peculiar interest as it furnishes a record of the rapid advance of Japan in adopting the usages of civilized warfare. There is probably no other instance in history in which

* By BERNARD MOSES, Ph. D. Pp. x, 328. Price, \$1.25. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1898.

† *International Law During the Chino-Japanese War*. By PROFESSOR SAKUYE TAKAHASHI. Pp. xxviii, 219. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1899.

a nation has succeeded in suddenly raising itself to the most advanced standards of international relations. We are fortunate in possessing a complete exposition of Japanese policy during the recent war with China. The work of Professor Ariga on the "Chino-Japanese War from the Point of View of International Law," which appeared in French, deals with the rules of warfare adopted by the Japanese government in military operations on land. The present work of Professor Takahashi restricts itself to the rules of maritime warfare. The author enjoyed a position of special advantage for studying the actual conduct of the Japanese navy. At the outbreak of the war he was ordered on board the admiral's flagship, the "Matsu-shima," as legal adviser and remained on board the vessel until the close of the war.

The book is divided into two parts, the first dealing with prize cases, the second with miscellaneous questions connected with the naval operations of the Japanese fleet. A valuable introduction by Professor Westlake, of Cambridge University, discusses the doctrine of "continuous voyage;" a number of interesting cases having arisen during the war involving the application of this doctrine. In the course of his introduction Professor Westlake criticises the American doctrine as enforced during the Civil War on the ground that the American courts confused the doctrine of contraband with that of blockade-running, a confusion due largely to the fact that the two offenses were, as a rule, committed by the same parties. With this exception there is little in the book which departs from the accepted principles of international law. The main interest in the volume is to be found in the peculiar circumstances under which the cases arose and in the settled determination of Japan to adhere to the highest standards of civilized warfare. In the few cases in which she was accused of barbarous treatment of the Chinese, Professor Takahashi shows clearly that the conditions were such as to permit of no other course of action. In this he is sustained by both Professors Holland and Westlake.

The volume is one which no student of international law can afford to neglect in the consideration of questions of naval warfare. Aside from its value as a work on international law, the description of the rules of warfare throws an interesting side-light on the progress of eastern civilization.

ONE OF THE FIRST results of a recent American tour by a party of young French students in economics, who were sent to America by the Musée Social, is to be found in the volume, just published, on *La concentration des forces ouvrières dans l'Amérique du*

nord, by Louis Vigouroux.* M. Paul de Rousiers, who has made several similar studies of the problems of organized labor in Great Britain, contributes an introduction to this volume, in which he calls attention to the fact that in English labor agitation the principle of sympathetic movements has been but little developed as compared with America, while the local union in England works out its own problem with greater attention to details and with better results than in America.

M. Vigouroux has succeeded in making his task a very definite and restricted one. He addresses himself to the questions why and how are laborers in America organized, what circumstances favor and hinder the progress of labor organizations and what results have they accomplished from the point of view of the workingman and from that of the employers and of American society in its entirety?

REVIEWS.

Bismarck, the Man and the Statesman, Being the Reflections and Reminiscences of Otto, Prince von Bismarck, Written and Dictated by Himself after His Retirement from Office. Translated from the German under the supervision of A. J. BUTLER, late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. 2 Vols. 8vo. Pp. (1) xxi, 415; (2) xx, 362. Price \$7.50. New York and London: Harper & Bros., 1899.†

The public and official acts of Prince Bismarck were well known to the world before the Iron Chancellor had laid down the sceptre of power. The history-writer had followed closely in the footsteps of the history-maker and recorded under the eye, and in some cases with the approval of the Prince, the events as they took place. Each of the earlier works on Bismarck sets forth distinct phases of the career of the great Pommeranian "Junker." The extensive work of Hahn, "*Fürst Bismarck, sein politisches Leben und Wirken*," 1878 to 1891, 5 vols., traces the political life of Bismarck as illustrated by official utterances and documents. Moritz Busch in his "*Fürst Bismarck und seine Leute während des Krieges mit Frankreich*" 1878, presented Bismarck in the heroic struggle for German supremacy. Von Poschinger in his "*Preussen im Bundestag*," and his "*Fürst Bismarck als Volkswirt*," 1889-91, treats of the important official functions of Bismarck in the Frankfurt Diet and

* *Bibliothèque du Musée Social.* Pp. xxvi, 362. Price, 4fr. Armand Colin & Cie, Éditeurs, 5 rue de Mézieres, Paris, 1899.

† *Gedanken und Erinnerungen von Otto Fürst von Bismarck.* Vol. ii, 8vo. Stuttgart: Cotta, 1898.